



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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### All-Star Line Up of Sponsors Commits to ***Tour of Missouri*** Companies Throughout State Support Inaugural Event

St. Louis, MO (July 24, 2007) Today the Tour of Missouri, announced an all-star line up of corporate sponsors for the Show Me state's inaugural event. The 600-mile, six-day Tour of Missouri, America's newest elite professional cycling race, is a world-class bicycle race patterned after the Tour de Georgia and Amgen Tour of California. It features point-to-point racing, starting in Kansas City, September 11 and concluding on September 16 in St. Louis.

"It is a pleasure to announce our Tour of Missouri sponsors who are to be commended for their support," said Missouri Governor Matt Blunt. "When Lieutenant Governor Kinder and I first sat down and began planning to make the Tour of Missouri a reality, we knew we could rely on the support and generosity of Missourians to make it work. We appreciate everyone who is working so hard and contributing their time, talents and resources to this exciting event and we encourage others to participate and join in the fun."

The distinguished list of Gold, Silver and Bronze partners, listed below, includes companies in St. Louis, Springfield and Kansas City.

#### GOLD

##### *Edward Jones*

Headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri, Edward Jones provides financial services for individual investors in the United States and, through its affiliates, in Canada and the United Kingdom. Every aspect of the firm's business, from the types of investment options offered to the location of branch offices, is designed to cater to individual investors in the communities in which they live and work.

##### *Build-A-Bear Workshop (sponsorship announced 7-16-07)*

Build-A-Bear Workshop, Inc. is the only global company that offers an interactive make-your-own stuffed animal retail-entertainment experience. Founded in St. Louis in 1997, the company currently operates more than 275 stores in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Ireland.

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### *Drury Inns*

Drury Hotels has been ranked #1 Overall Hotel. Drury Hotels offer reasonable rates (about \$84 a night), free hot breakfast, free long distance calls, free high-speed Internet, and free evening cocktails. Apparently, "FREE" is a 4-letter word that most travelers love to hear!

### *O'Reilly Auto Parts*

O'Reilly Auto Parts is the dominant auto parts retailer in all of its market areas. From its roots as a single store in 1957 to the current size of over 1,650 locations (and growing), O'Reilly Auto Parts has come a long way.

### *Anheuser-Busch*

Headquartered in St. Louis Anheuser-Busch is the leading American brewer, holding a 48.4 percent share of U.S. beer sales. The company brews the world's largest-selling beers, Budweiser and Bud Light.

### *Monsanto*

Monsanto Company is a leading global provider of technology-based solutions and agricultural products that improve farm productivity and food quality.

### SILVER

#### AT&T

Gateway Harley-Davidson/Buell  
Mercy Health Plans  
Missouri Wine & Grape Board  
Gail's Harley-Davidson/Buell

### BRONZE

Agri-Missouri Businesses  
Ford Motor  
Lockton Companies  
MMG Worldwide  
Spencer Fane Britt & Browne, LLP

"This all-star line up of companies is a home run for the Tour of Missouri," said Missouri Lt. Governor Peter Kinder. "They are among the most respected businesses in the state and are each committed to taking an active role in the communities they serve."

A limited number of sponsorship opportunities are still available. For more information call 314-599-3040.

The Missouri race includes legs to Clinton, Springfield, Branson, Lebanon, Columbia, Jefferson City, and St. Charles. It will feature teams of eight from 15 of the world's top professional cycling teams. The number 1-ranked American team, Discovery Channel team, will be among the participants.

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**About Tour of Missouri**

The race is sanctioned by the UCI, the international governing body for cycling, and USA Cycling, the national governing body for cycling. It is ranked as a 2.1, second in ranking to only the Tour de Georgia and Amgen Tour of California in North American cycling. The event's management group is Medalist Sports of Tyrone, Ga., the organizers of both the California and Georgia races. KOM Sports Marketing of Colorado Springs, Colo., is the event's marketing agency. For more information visit [www.tourofmissouri.com](http://www.tourofmissouri.com).

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